JANUARY 27, 2006

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **January 27**. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of major discussions and decisions that occurred at these meetings.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the NLTA staff person as indicated.

President's Report

Since the last meeting of Provincial Executive the President has continued his lunchtime visitations in schools throughout the province. Besides various meetings in his capacity as President, he has presented to the Provincial pre-budget consultations, addressed the winter conference of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Directors of Education, and brought greetings to numerous retirement dinners to honour retiring teachers. His activities in the media have been numerous on issues of teacher stress, negotiations, and the disciplining of teachers.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President.

Internal Review of NLTA Operations

At the 2005 BGM the following motion was carried: *"That an internal/external review be conducted on all aspects of the NLTA operations in order to develop a strategic plan"*. An internal analysis of all Association programs and services has been carried out by NLTA Administrative Staff and this information was provided to Provincial Executive for their review and feedback. There was some discussion as to where the process should proceed and the following motion was approved by Executive: *"That NLTA staff will investigate with other teacher unions/associations in Canada the options available to the NLTA for conducting a review of NLTA programs and services."*

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

MUN Program Review

A presentation was made to Provincial Executive by members of the MUN committee reviewing programs with the Faculty of Education. The members of the committee included from MUN: Dr. Clar Doyle (Chair), Dr. Karen Goodnough, Dr. Morgan Gardner; and Beverley Park, Professional Development Staff Officer with the NLTA. Besides updating Provincial Executive on the program review, the committee also asked Executive for their input into the attitudes, knowledge and skills that they look for in a beginning teacher, and they asked what the Faculty of Education can do to better prepare teachers for the types of school configurations we have in this province.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Review of Branch Structure and Operations

During the last school year the Membership Benefits and Services Committee explored and made recommendations on changes to the current branch structure and operations. Following consultation with branches, the committee presented its report to Executive and further input was requested from Joint Council. Based on the information received from Joint Council, the following motion was approved by Executive: *"The Membership Benefits and Services Committee will be requested to prepare draft branch feasibility guidelines and bring the proposed policy changes incorporating such guidelines to Executive for approval. Input will be sought from Joint Council on the proposed guidelines before policy proposals are drafted."*

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Association Priorities

Provincial Executive reviewed the Priorities Document and was updated by Administrative Staff on various elements of the priorities including objectives, timelines and action updates. The priorities are: quality of teachers' work life/contract negotiations; membership awareness; and professionalism/accountability.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Electoral Committee

The Electoral Committee has prepared its report and recommendations to Provincial Executive on the province-wide election of President and Vice-President. The following recommendations were approved by Provincial Executive:

(see over)

- The Association will seek a clause in the collective agreement providing for ten days of paid leave for officially declared candidates for the office of NLTA President and Vice-President.
- The Association will conduct a survey of teachers to determine if they wish to continue with the province-wide voting process or revert to a system of election by delegates at the BGM.
- If the results of the province-wide survey lead to a continuation of the province-wide voting process, consideration will be given by Executive to recommending a by-law change to move the province-wide elections to a more appropriate time in the school year.
- The policy on Election of the President and Vice-President by province-wide vote will be amended to require submissions of the voting results no later than 6:00 p.m. of the day following the election day, and that the necessary changes be made in the voting guidelines to effect this change.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees

Equity Issues

- The NLTA will sponsor five female observer delegates to the Biennial General Meeting with the purpose of building interest in leadership in the Association by this under-represented group.
- *The Bulletin* will regularly profile females who have shown leadership within the Association.

  For further information contact Paul Pinsent, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee, or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Table Officers

- The Labrador West Negotiating Committee will be: Jeff Milley (Menihek High School), Dean MacDonald (Menihek High School), Edward Neary (Menihek High School), Theresa Gale (J.R. Smallwood Middle School), Rose Neville (A.P. Low Primary), and NLTA Staff Officer Perry Downey as Chief Negotiator.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.
- The position taken by the Association to the Minister of Education regarding the opening and closing dates for school was that the school year continue to open after Labour Day. The Association will request that the closing date for the school year 2007-08 be June 27.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Other Business

- The President will write the Minister of Education re the concerns raised in a letter from a school staff concerning violence against teachers with copies to the school staff and to the Director of Student Support Services at the Department of Education.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.
- Further discussions will take place with Dr. Lynda Younghusband re a potential study into the incidence and impact of school violence.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.
- An administrative officer in the Professional Development Division will meet with representatives of primary school teachers to obtain input on the workload issues being experienced by these teachers including report cards, First Steps Continuum, individual assessments, etc., and then make representation to the Department of Education on their behalf.

  For further information contact Kevin Foley, President or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **March 30** and followed by Joint Council on **March 31 and April 1** in St. John's.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President.